

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend Page 6, Paragraph [0013] Lines 16-26 to read as follows:

Electrons are supplied from the electrodes to the discharge space via the needle crystals following the application of a voltage to the electrodes, particularly in the case where the needle crystals are disposed substantially perpendicular to the main surface of the front substrate to penetrate the dielectric film in a thickness direction, and the dielectric film material and the protective film material are layered to completely fill the gaps between the needle crystals. In this way, the discharge firing voltage and discharge variability can be reduced, [[even]] evenly through the action of electrons supplied to the discharge space via the needle crystals when a voltage is applied to the electrodes.